

News Release

U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of Ohio*

For Release:

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William J. Edwards, Acting United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, announced today the unsealing of a 22-count federal indictment charging six individuals with mail fraud, wire fraud, health care fraud and conspiracy to commit those same offenses in connection with the transportation of Medicaid beneficiaries in vehicles called ambulettes.

The indictment charges

1. OSMAN E. YOUSIF (aka Osman E. Yousis), owner of On Time Transportation, 427 Fifth Street, Struthers, Ohio 44471;
2. MUDAR A.M. ISMAIL (aka Mudar I. Mohamed), owner of Nobility Express Transportation, 106 Robbins Avenue, Suite #3, Niles, Ohio, 44446;
3. RABI ALI, owner of EZ Transportation, 106 Robbins Avenue, Suite #7, Niles, Ohio, 44446;
4. OSAMA E. ABDALLA, owner of Elite Express Transportation, 10117 Brecksville Road, Suite A1, Brecksville, Ohio 44141;
5. AMIR BALLA, owner of Niles Transportation, 106 Robbins Avenue, Suite #4, Niles, Ohio, 44446;
6. ELSIDDIG ELFAKI, owner of Town Jet Transportation, 2906 Lincoln Street, Struthers, Ohio 44471;

with violations of laws involving mail fraud, wire fraud, health care fraud and conspiracy.

Osman Yousif is charged with one count of conspiracy, four counts of wire fraud, and

four counts of health care fraud. Mudar A.M. Ismail is charged with one count of conspiracy, one count of mail fraud, and two counts of health care fraud. Rabi Ali is charged with one count of conspiracy and two counts of health care fraud. Osama E. Abdalla is charged with one count of conspiracy, one count of mail fraud, and two counts of health care fraud. Amir Bala Elamin is charged with one count of conspiracy and two counts of health care fraud. Elsiddig Elfaki is charged with one count of conspiracy and three counts of health care fraud.

Ambulette services contract with the Ohio Medicaid program to transport patients in vehicles known as ambulettes. An ambulette is a specially equipped van designed for wheelchair passengers. Medicaid pays ambulette operators for driving Medicaid beneficiaries to and from Medicaid-covered appointments, so long as: (1) the patient rides in a wheelchair, (2) a medical doctor certifies the need for the wheelchair and ambulette, and, (3) the ambulette itself otherwise meets safety specifications.

The defendants in each of these cases are charged with scheming to defraud Medicaid by charging Medicaid for rides of patients who did not use wheelchairs or require the need of wheelchairs.

If convicted, each defendant's sentence will be determined by the Court after review of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines and factors unique to each case, including the defendant's prior criminal record, if any, the defendant's role in the offenses and the characteristics of the violations.

The indictment is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General, and the Ohio Attorney General Marc Dann's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael L. Collyer with assistance from Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Constance Nearhood, an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Ohio.

An indictments is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is entitled to a

fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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